

What is numeracy?

Numeracy is a vital skill that is important in everyday life. It is about being confident when solving problems, making decisions and analysing situations that involve numbers. Numeracy is key to lifelong learning, e.g. it enables a young person to understand scientific concepts, interpret figures, understand cause and effect etc. Like all learning, it begins in the home and continues in nursery with, for example, counting, songs and rhythms. As children move to primary school they use numeracy in a wide range of everyday activities at school and in activities outwith school, and at play. Portlethen Primary School recognises the importance of numeracy in learning and in life and promotes numeracy across all areas of the curriculum, ensuring that children develop the necessary skills and the confidence to apply numeracy skills throughout their learning.

Second Level numeracy

Second Level numeracy is split into the following sections: Number, Money & Measure, Shape, Position & Movement and Information Handling but there is also a great emphasis placed on ensuring that numeracy skills are embedded throughout the whole curriculum. It is important that children do not view Numeracy as a 'stand-alone' subject but that they make links to their mathematical knowledge and apply their skills to real-life situations.

Numeracy Across the Curriculum

- ❖ Activities in the classroom might be undertaken independently, with a partner or as part of a group. Maths activities are incorporated into the curriculum through projects and class studies. Budgeting, using timetables and developing a knowledge of finances in the home all may be part of your child's extended numeracy learning, to name but a few examples.

Number, Money, Measure

- ❖ This includes learning how to count, read, write and order numbers; to add, subtract, multiply and divide; to work with fractions, decimals and percentages. Children will also learn to work with money and time and learn how to measure length, weight and volume.

Shape, Position and Movement

- ❖ Children learn about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They also explore angles, direction and symmetry.

Information Handling

- ❖ Children explore data and develop skills in analysis. They construct and interpret tables, charts, diagrams and graphs and learn how to carry out surveys and record data from different sources.

How can I help?

You can help your child by practising multiplication tables frequently - they are an essential tool for success in numeracy at Second Level and beyond. Activities such as estimating the cost of shopping and using percentages to calculate the new price of a discounted item would benefit your child.

Opportunities to calculate 3 for 2 offers in a supermarket would help your child with their mental mathematical ability. Asking questions such as 'Which is the better deal?' or 'how much could you save?' would allow your child to develop problem solving strategies.

Other activities to help your child could be to plan and budget for a day out, could you make the budget go further?

Playing board games will increase your child's ability to think strategically, and will develop their skill and logic. Board games such as Monopoly, Othello, Rummikub, Yatzee, Mancala, Carcassonne, Settlers of Catan, Chess will all help your child to develop problem solving and mental calculation strategies.

Helpful Websites

❖ Parentzone Scotland:

For information about education in Scotland and ways to help parents support their children's learning

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home//Supporting-numeracy>

❖ www.bbc.co.uk/schools

❖ www.mad4maths.com

❖ www.maths-games.org

❖ www.topmarks.co.uk

❖ www.mathletics.co.uk

❖ www.themathsfactor.com

❖ www.sumdog.com

❖ www.readwritecount.scot/

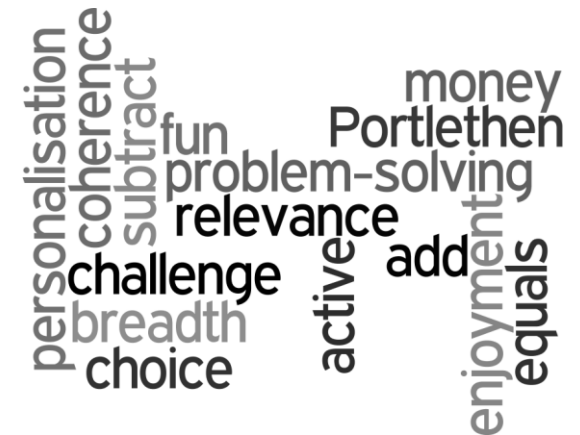


Portlethen School

Numeracy

Second Level

Second Level is usually covered between P5 and the end of P7 but this may be earlier or later for some learners.



Supporting your child
with numeracy